

## **CLEAN VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS**

current claims

1. (amended) A connection element for the attachment of removable tooth dentures to crowns of teeth or tooth implants with a locking bar (R) supported slidable perpendicular to a removal direction of the denture, wherein the locking bar is guidable by the force of a spring (F) as seen from the removal direction of the denture under regions of a fixedly seated element (S) formed at a tooth crown or a tooth implant and wherein the locking bar with its parts effective for the locking is removable again out of these regions against this spring force by actuation of a pushbutton (D) acting upon the locking bar (R), characterized in that a locking device (A) is provided for the locking bar (R), wherein the locking device (A) is movable upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) by a spring force acting in the direction of the shift motion of the locking bar (R) or by the motion of the locking bar (R) itself such that the locking device effects slight lifting of the connection element in removal direction of the denture through limit stop faces.

2. (amended) The connection element according to claim one, characterized in that after the actuation of the pushbutton (D), a spring force acting in the direction of the shift motion of the locking bar (R) maintains

the connection element in a slightly lifted position in the removal direction of the denture by the cooperation of limit stop faces and guide faces.

3. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking bar (R) and the locking device (A) are guided in a casing (G, G1/G2), wherein the casing is attachable by at the denture frame, wherein the recess in the denture frame is pre-formable with auxiliary parts out of plastic, metal or ceramic for receiving the casing and wherein the connection to the denture frame is produceable by a dovetail shaped extension (20).

4. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking bar (R) and the locking device (A) are guided in corresponding recesses directly in the denture frame.

5. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking device (A) forms a self-contained, movably supported part which is placeable into motion upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) and which effects a slight lifting of the connection element in pullout direction by pushing of a limit stop face (11,24,32,36) at the fixedly seated element (S).

6. (amended) The connection element according to claim 5, characterized in that the locking device (A) in the casing (G), in the denture body or in the locking bar (R) is supported slidable at least along a closing-basal direction or supported rotatable around an axis disposed perpendicular to the direction of motion of the locking bar (R), wherein a falling out in a basal direction is prevented by limit stops for example at the casing (G) or at the bolt (B).
7. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the force of the at least one spring (F) is directly transferable, wherein the spring (F) is attached at the locking device (A) or indirectly transferable onto the locking device (A) upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) and after releasing the pushbutton (D).
8. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the motion of the locking bar (R) is directly transferable or is indirectly transferable through a bolt (B) onto the locking device (A) upon actuation of the pushbutton (D).
9. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that upon actuation of the pushbutton (D), both the force of the at least one spring (f) as well as by way of limit stop faces (12, 13, 37,

38) the motion of the locking bar (R) are transferable onto the same bolt (B) and through further limit stop faces (10,35) onto the locking device (A).

10. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking device (A) together with the locking bar (R) forms a common part, wherein the common part is supported limited rotatable around an axis disposed in the direction of the shifting motion in addition to a shiftable support and wherein upon actuation of the pushbutton D the common part is placed into rotation by the co-action of the limit stop faces and guide faces and wherein a slight lifting of the connection element in pullout direction is effected by pushing of one limit stop face (45) at the fixedly seated element (S).

11. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking device (A) holds the locking bar (R), after the locking bar has been moved upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) against the force of at least one spring (F), in this position upon removal of the denture by the co-action of limit stop faces (6,14,25,26,29,33,39,40,46,47) and releases upon insertion of the denture based on the pushing of limit stop faces (11,24,32,36) of the locking device (A) again at the fixedly seated element (S), such that the locking bar (R) can be led back again by the spring force.

12. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the locking bar (R) is led back again by the spring force upon removal of the denture after moving the locking bar (R) upon actuation of the pushbutton (D) against the force of at least one spring (F), and wherein the locking bar (R) is moved again against the force of the at least one spring (F) during insertion of the denture by the action of inclined guide faces, wherein the locking bar (R) is then again led back by the spring force in case the denture is fully inserted.

13. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the movable parts are secured against falling out in the direction of the spring (F) by the locking device (A) itself, by a sleeve shaped screw (Sch1) inserted in the direction of the shifting motion of the locking bar (R) or by screw (Sch2, Sch3) inserted from the basal direction and wherein the disassembly is performed by pressing in of the locking device (A) against the spring force acting onto the locking device (A) through limit stop faces or by removing of the screw (Sch1, Sch2, Sch3).

14. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the fixedly seated element is formed by a web extension or by a web (S), wherein parts of the denture framed or of the casing (G) can engage in guide grooves.

15. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that a sleeve (H) is provided for guiding of the locking bar (R) through the prosthetic body.

16. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the diameter of the pushbutton (D) is of the same size or larger as the diameter of the locking bar (R), wherein the pushbutton (D) and the locking bar (R) form a common part.

17. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the spring (F) is disposed between the locking bar (R) and the casing (G).

18. (twice amended) The connection element according to claim 1, characterized in that the individual construction parts are formed as confection parts out of a member selected from the group consisting of dental alloy, titanium, a spring material and plastic.